

## SYNOPSIS

03/03/2020

# Review of “Clinical characteristics of coronavirus disease 2019 in China”

**Article citation:** Guan W, Ni Z, Hu Y, Liang W, Ou C, He J, et al. Clinical characteristics of coronavirus disease 2019 in China. *N Engl J Med*. 2020 Feb 28 [Epub ahead of print]. Available from: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2002032>

## One-Minute Summary

- This study describes the epidemiologic and clinical characteristics of **1,099 cases** of laboratory-confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) from 552 hospitals in 30 provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities in China up to January 29, 2020.
- **Female:** 41.9%; **Median age:** 47 years (interquartile range [IQR]: 35–58), with 0.9% (9/1,099) patients <15 years
- **Most common symptoms:** fever (88.7% overall; 43.8% at initial presentation) and cough (67.8%)
- **Median incubation period** (based on 291 patients): Four days (IQR: 2–7)
- **Median length of hospital stay:** 12 days (IQR: 10–14)
- **Clinical outcomes:**
  - Death - 1.4%
  - Discharged - 5.0%
  - Remains hospitalized - 93.6%
  - Recovered - 0.8%
- The **most common complications** were pneumonia (91.1%), acute respiratory distress syndrome (3.4%) and septic shock (1.1%).
- **ICU admission** was required in 5.0% of patients.
- **Patients with severe disease were older** (median: 52 years, IQR: 40–65) vs. non-severe (median: 45 years, IQR: 34–57) and had **more coexisting conditions** (38.7%) vs. non-severe (21.0%).
- **For all patients, the cumulative risk of the composite end point** (i.e., admission to intensive care unit, mechanical ventilation or death) was 3.6%; for severe disease cases, the cumulative risk of the composite end point was 20.6%.

## Additional Information

- Authors defined severe disease at admission using the American Thoracic Society guidelines for community-acquired pneumonia.
- **Patient exposures:**
  - Contact with person from Wuhan - 72.3%
  - Resident of Wuhan - 43.9%
  - Travel to Wuhan - 31.3%
  - Health care worker - 3.5%

- Wildlife contact - 1.9%
- No link to Wuhan (no travel to Wuhan or contact with Wuhan residents) - 25.9%
- Upon admission, **83.2% of patients had lymphocytopenia**, followed by thrombocytopenia (36.2%) and leukopenia (33.7%).
- The authors present an [epidemiological and clinical comparison](#) of COVID-19, SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV and seasonal influenza (see Table S3).

## PHO Reviewer’s Comments

- None.

## Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Review of “Clinical characteristics of coronavirus disease 2019 in China”. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; 2020.

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